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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,574	01/25/2001	Masafumi Aikawa	018656-197	3581

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EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,574

Applicant(s)

AIKAWA, MASAFUMI

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 29 July 2004 has been received and entered. The applicant has cancelled claims 1-21 and added claims 22-41, which are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 22-27, 29-37 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Knodt U.S. Patent 6,515,684.

Referring to claims 22 and 32, Knodt teaches a method and computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps comprising displaying one of a plurality of entry screens (in the interface shown in Figure 7, a plurality of entry screens, or links

to setup conditions, such as “Color Mode”, “Copy Output”, “Reduce/Enlarge”, etc. are displayed) (column 7, lines 4-42); receiving input on the displayed entry screen from a user to set operation conditions (users can select any of the table entries shown in Figure 7 to access the user interface shown in Figure 9 for setting operation conditions) (column 7, lines 33-39 and column 8, lines 44-63); if the user selects another entry screen, displaying the selected entry screen instead of the current displayed entry screen (the user can select any of the entry screens listed in the table shown in Figures 7 and 12 to display a newly selected entry screen) (column 8, lines 37-43 and column 10, lines 31-65); and displaying a window which shows a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens as a diagram (for example, the window displaying the job feature review summary of the plurality of set conditions displays an icon representing the setting results of each condition) (column 7, lines 10-65. column 10, lines 31-49 and further shown in Figures 7 and 12), the diagram having different shapes depending on the setting results (for example, the icon representing the set “Reduce/Enlarge” condition of 100%, shown in Figures 7 and 8 is different than the icon representing the set “Reduce/Enlarge” condition of Custom: X=100, Y=50%, shown in Figure 12; therefore, the icon displayed for the setting results changes depending on values set by the user)(column 9, line 62 – column 10, line 3).

Referring to claims 29 and 39, Knodt teaches a method and computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising displaying one of a plurality of entry screens (Figure 12 shows plurality of tabbed table columns users can select in order to set the corresponding feature values) (column 10, lines 50-59); receiving input on the displayed entry screen from a user to set operation conditions (a user may select any one of the

tabs, or headers to access a feature value setting graphical user interface, as shown in Figure 9 for example) (column 10, lines 31-65); if the user selects another entry screen, displaying the selected entry screen instead of the current displayed entry screen (the user can select any of the entry screens listed in the table shown in Figure 12 to display a newly selected entry screen) (column 8, lines 37-43 and column 10, lines 31-65); and displaying a window within entry screens, the window showing a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens and continuing to be displayed even if the entry screen is switched to another entry screen (as shown in Figure 12, the job feature review summary window is displayed within each entry screen, or each tab of the interface, where if the user selected the “Basic Copying” tab instead of the currently selected “Added Features” tab, a job feature review window would still be shown, displaying the items “Color Mode”, “Copy Output”, “Reduce/Enlarge” and “Paper Supply”, for example) (column 10, lines 31-65).

Referring to claims 23 and 33, Knodt teaches the window shows the setting results as the diagram by use of icons (for example, the window displaying the job feature review summary of the plurality of set conditions displays an icon representing the setting results of each condition) (column 7, lines 10-65. column 10, lines 31-49 and further shown in Figures 7 and 12).

Referring to claims 24, 30, 34 and 40, Knodt teaches the window shows only some of the setting results (as shown in Figure 11, the job feature summary window can display only some of the setting results, i.e. displaying only table entries that have at least one current feature value that is different from the corresponding default value) (column 10, lines 10-24).

Referring to claims 25 and 35, Knodt teaches the window is displayed within entry screens and continues to be displayed even if the entry screen is switched to another entry screen

(as shown in Figure 12, the job feature review summary window is displayed within each entry screen, or each tab of the interface, where if the user selected the “Basic Copying” tab instead of the currently selected “Added Features” tab, a job feature review window would still be shown, displaying the items “Color Mode”, “Copy Output”, “Reduce/Enlarge” and “Paper Supply”, for example) (column 10, lines 31-65).

Referring to claims 26 and 36, Knodt teaches the window is displayed in addition to the entry screens (as shown in Figures 7 and 8, the job feature review summary window also functions as entry screens wherein the user can gain access to a plurality of categories of operation conditions) (column 7, lines 33-53).

Referring to claims 27, 31, 37 and 41, Knodt teaches the window shows the setting results set on the entry screens which are not currently displayed (as shown in Figure 5, the job feature review summary windows displays the setting results for “Basic Features” such as “Color Mode”, “Added Features” such as “Image Shift”, and “Image Quality” features such as “Original Type”, in addition to the results for the currently selected and displayed tab of “Output Format”) (column 6, lines 22-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 28 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knodt U.S. Patent 6,515,684, as applied to claims 22 and 32 above, and Fang U.S. Patent 6,628,311.

Referring to claims 28 and 38, Knodt teaches all of the limitations as applied to claims 22 and 32 above. However, Knodt fails to explicitly teach showing the setting results with a mark to inform the user that a corresponding operation condition cannot be set. Fang teaches an interface for setting operation conditions through a plurality of entry screen (Fang: Figure 3a) similar to that of Knodt. In addition, Fang further teaches showing the setting results with a mark to inform the user that a corresponding operation condition cannot be set (operation conditions that cannot be set, i.e. the display control boxes for conditions that has been deactivated, are identified by a help icon corresponding to possible reasons why particular display control boxes are deactivated; for example, as shown in Figure 3a, because the value of the Duplex/Booklet condition is set for "Booklet Printing", the staple display control cannot be set and therefore, a help icon is displayed to indicate the deactivation of the staple control box) (Fang: column 3, lines 38-48 and column 4, lines 28-33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Knodt and Fang before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface for setting operation conditions of Knodt to include the display of a mark to indicate non-settable operation conditions, as taught by Fang. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to help users understand interdependencies between operation conditions, allowing them to easily identify which operation conditions are not compatible with other operation conditions, thereby preventing users from performing erroneous functions causing the machine to malfunction.

4. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar user interfaces for setting operation conditions through entry screens.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 22-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

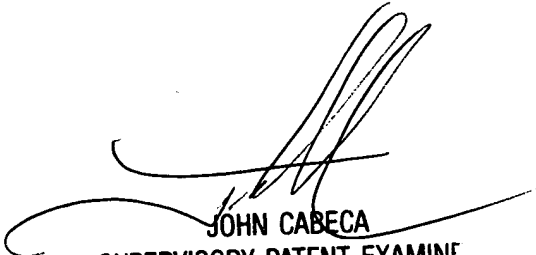
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-4058.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

5 November 2004



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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